

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4741

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FOR HA/ORM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ETHNIC VIETNAMESE CASE WORKERS

1. THE UPCOMING TRANSFER OF THE JOINT VOLUNTARY AGENCY BOAT REFUGEE UNIT CHIEF HAS FOCUSED OUR THINKING ON WAYS TO STAFF THE UNIT AND HOW TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATIONS. JVA CASE WORKERS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN THE INLAND CAMPS BECAUSE SO MANY OF THEM HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THAI, WHICH IS NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM LAO. BOAT OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN HAMPERED BECAUSE NO AMERICAN MEMBER OF THE JVA STAFF HAS VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. VIETNAMESE SPEAKING REFUGEE OFFICERS HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR THIS DEFICIENCY, BUT THEIR FREQUENT TURNOVER ON TWO TO THREE MONTH TDY ASSIGNMENTS HAS NOT LENT THE SAME STABILITY TO THE PROGRAM AS TUCKER'S CONTINUING PRESENCE HAS PROVIDED FOR LAO MATTERS, OR DANIELD' FOR HMONG.

2. THE BOAT UNIT CURRENTLY HAS ONE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE PRE-SCREENER/INTERPRETER OF SWISS NATIONALITY, AND ANOTHER ETHNIC VIETNAMESE INTERPRETER OF THAI NATIONALITY. THE FIRST MAY BE LEAVING PERMANENTLY AS OF JUNE 1, AND THE OTHER DEPARTS THE SAME DATE FOR SIX WEEKS LEAVE IN THE
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UNITED STATES TO VISIT HER PARENTS.

3. WE ARE THUS SEEKING THE ASSIGNMENT TO BOAT OPERATIONS OF TWO ETHNIC VIETNAMESE. THEY WOULD PREFERABLY HAVE U.S. CITIZENSHIP, OR ALTERNATIVELY PERMANENT RESIDENCY. A THAI CITIZEN FLUENT IN VIETNAMESE AND ENGLISH WOULD ALSO BE A POSSIBILITY.

4. THREE POSSIBILITIES FOR RECRUITMENT COME TO MIND:
FIND SOMEONE LOCALLY, HAVE IRC RECRUIT SOMEONE FROM THE
UNITED STATES, OR DRAW ON THE VIETNAMESE STAFF OF THE
HEW INDOCHINESE REFUGEE TASK FORCE.

5. FOR VARIOUS REASONS WE ARE RELUCTANT TO RECRUIT, AND
PARTICULARLY TO ADVERTISE, LOCALLY. THE JVA REPRESENTATIVE
HAS CONSULTED IRC HEADQUARTERS ABOUT SEEKING AN INDIVIDUAL
FROM THE UNITED STATES, SO FAR WITHOUT RESULT. THE BEST
INTERIM SOLUTION MAY BE TO RELY ON A 90 DAY TDY OF ONE OF
THE HEW STAFF.

6. TWO NAMES THAT COME TO MIND ARE KIM CHI AND KIM DUNG.
IF MEMORY SERVES US CORRECTLY, ONLY KIM CHI HAS AMERICAN
CITIZENSHIP. WE HAD DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING WITH THE
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THE ADMISSION TO THAILAND LAST FALL
OF A CAMBODIAN WIFE OF AN FSO BECAUSE SHE WAS A PERMANENT
RESIDENT RATHER THAN A CITIZEN. WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS
BE WILLING TO TEST THE INTERIOR MINISTRY MOOD ON THIS
ISSUE ONCE MORE. TIMES MAY HAVE CHANGED.

7. IF THE INDIVIDUAL FROM HEW WORKS OUT AND IRC IS
UNABLE TO PRODUCE AN ETHNIC VIETNAMESE U.S. CITIZEN, WE
COULD THEN CONSIDER A PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT ON REIMBURSABLE
DETAIL FROM HEW. WHATEVER THE CASE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
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HAVING AT LEAST ONE OF THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WE ARE REQUEST-
ING ARRIVE IN BANGKOK NOT LATER THAN JUNE 5.
WHITEHOUSE

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